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British workers, with the figures given in the Final Report on the First Census of Production [Cd. 6320], a British bluebook published in 1912, shows how careless the author is in statistical compilation. In the cardboard trade he excludes the value of "other" products but includes the wage earners engaged; in the paper trade he includes salaried persons with wage earners; in the cement trade he has 18,860 wage earners where the census has 13,860; in the cotton trade he gives a value of £132,000,000 where the census gives £162,000,000. These discrepancies appear in a comparison of part, not all, of the items. Such errors, particularly when they all contribute to support the author's thesis, as in this case they do, destroy all confidence in his work. CLIVE DAY

A STUDY OF TRADE FLUCTUATIONS

D. H. ROBERTSON. **A Study of Industrial Fluctuation: An Enquiry into the Character and Causes of the So-Called Cyclical Movements of Trade.** xiii and 285 pp.; diagrs., indexes. P. S. King & Son, Ltd., London, 1915. 7s. 6d. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Industrial fluctuations are sure to play an important part in the future just as they have in the past. Therefore, although the war prevented an earlier review, Mr. Robertson's book is worth discussing at this time. It is also worth discussing as an example of the way in which careless handling can spoil a fine subject and largely nullify a great amount of careful research and clear thought. The book is packed with important and pertinent facts as to industrial fluctuations in many countries, especially Britain. It also has the excellence of being built around a definite theory and yet of giving the facts in such a way that the reader can decide for himself whether to accept or reject the theory. In brief the author's contention is as follows: After a period of industrial depression a recovery occurs from the following causes: (1) increased efficiency in production because of lessons of economy and industry learned during hard times; (2) increased natural resources either in the form of good crops or of larger supplies of coal, iron, lumber, and other products which depend largely on geographical surroundings. This increase in nature's bounty causes a relative increase in the value of manufactured articles. (3) Recovery also occurs because of increased hope that future profits may accrue in some of the following ways: (a) because the machinery and other equipment of all kinds which has been worn out but not replaced during the period of depression must be renewed, thus creating a great demand; (b) because of geographical or industrial discoveries; and (c) because of new inventions or new political arrangements. (4) The last of the causes of industrial recovery is the expansion of currency and credit, either through the opening of new gold mines or otherwise. Such expansion leads people to expect a rise in prices in their own particular commodities, and it also lowers interest rates and causes the ultimate consumer to purchase freely. The subsequent decline in business comes through the reversal of these four processes. Space forbids further discussion, but the prominent place occupied by geographical factors is evident.

If Mr. Robertson's book were well written it would be worth reading by a large circle of geographers. Here is a sample of its style: "When fairly faced, the problem of industrial fluctuation becomes nothing less formidable than the problem of maximising the community's aggregate of net satisfaction through time, in other words of attaining the best distribution through time of its income of consumable goods which is practicable without undesirable restrictions of the total of that income." This is not scientific language: it is jargon. To ferret out the meaning is like pulling teeth, even for the economist. Presumably the author means: "When fairly faced, the problem of the prevention of industrial fluctuation becomes the formidable problem of giving the community the maximum amount of satisfaction. That maximum is not attained by overproduction alternating with underproduction, but by maintaining an intermediate level. This can be done without the undesirable result of reducing the average production below its present level."

It is to be hoped that some day Mr. Robertson will put his interesting theories into such language that readers can concentrate their attention on the ideas and not be forced to expend it on the words. ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON

LAND GRANTS TO SOLDIERS

F. C. HOWE. **The Land and the Soldier.** xi and 196 pp. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1919. \$1.25. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The theme treated interests all our people; it is closely connected with the future welfare of the nation. Sixty years ago any poor man in our country who had gumption and good health could get land for little or nothing. At first the government charged him \$125 for a quarter section. A little later, under a new law, he could take up the

same area of government land as a pre-emption claim at a cost of only a few dollars for the necessary papers. Farms thus acquired within 25 miles of Minneapolis and St. Paul, for example, are now worth \$25,000 or more, and the farmer can market his produce and get home in his auto-truck in a half a day.

Poor men cannot pay these big prices for land; and the government is already beginning to help the soldier with little or no money to get hold of a bit of land on which he can support his family when he has one. The government will also see that he has a little house and that other needs will be supplied. When he is able, he will be expected to pay for this.

There are many other men, not soldiers, who will wish to make homes and acquire a few acres so that they and their families may be comfortable. All sides of the great question are discussed in this book. It treats of many phases of acquiring and developing small farm properties and tells of the experience of Denmark and other countries that have made a great success of small-scale dairying, poultry raising, and other farm enterprises and are happy and prosperous.

CYRUS C. ADAMS

A GEOGRAPHICAL HANDBOOK ON POLAND

E. WUNDERLICH, edit. *Handbuch von Polen (Kongress-Polen): Beiträge zu einer allgemeinen Landeskunde*. 2nd edit. xxxii and 511 pp.; maps, diagrs., ills., bibliogr., index. Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen), Berlin, 1918. 11 x 7½ inches.

Warsaw fell before Hindenburg's armies August 5, 1915. Early in 1916 the German governor-general of Warsaw ordered a comprehensive work written on Congress Poland, which means the region called Kingdom of Poland by the Congress of Vienna in 1815. It is the part of Poland that fell to Russia and is therefore quite separate from the portions of that country long included in Prussia and Austria. The name Congress Poland is meant to make this clear. In January, 1917, the "Handbuch" was first issued, and the edition was exhausted in a few months, exciting interest "even in Polish circles." This second edition was issued in January, 1918. During all this time Congress Poland was occupied by the German armies; but the Germans had intimated that they meant to make this territory independent. The treaty of Brest Litovsk, annexing it to Germany, had not then been signed.

Eight of the fourteen authors represented in this volume were on the governor-general's staff, one representative each of the press and big business, and one expert each for agriculture, geography, physics, meteorology, forestry, and geology—a staff equipment characteristic of German thoroughness. The other six were university men of technical training.

Learned and unlearned Germany had been alike in the dark, we are told, about the nature and resources of this region, so near their territory. The Russians had kept investigators out and had discouraged studies by the Polish inhabitants.

The book is a valuable contribution to the geology, physiography, and economics of the country and contains important matter concerning its inhabitants and their material and cultural condition. Although written on conquered ground for the use of a military governor, it does not thereby differ so much from older German books as might be the case if the Germans had been less convinced of their superiority to all other races. It is thorough and clear, makes much use of Polish and Russian sources, and shows personal investigation by the authors. The authors try to maintain an impartial and scientific attitude. It evidently has not occurred to them that their work is propaganda. That there has long existed a hatred of the Germans in Congress Poland is recognized. This hatred is explained as being due to characteristic intrigues of the Russian government. The work of Dr. Schultz and Dr. Praesent on the people of the region shows their belief—not explicitly stated—that the one thing these people need is the protection and guidance of the German government. The governor-general says he was well pleased with the book.

The Germans had no idea there were so many of their countrymen in Congress Poland (719,000) nor that they had preserved their habits and speech so well. Dr. Praesent was astonished to find near Lodz numerous purely German villages masquerading under Polish names.

Of old the Poles were herdsmen in the forest or forest openings. German peasants came in in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, cut the forests, and founded innumerable villages and cities in which the Polish nobles, in their gratitude, allowed them to enjoy the freedom customary in German cities. They tilled the land and taught the Polish peasants to till it. There were great numbers of these German peasants, they made the land valuable to the nobles who owned it; but, though eagerly invited, they were soon merely tolerated and then oppressed. The country became a great producer of grain; but the nobles attached the peasants to the soil in order to